

RIVER CURRENTS

SECOND COAST GUARD DISTRICT - MAY 1980

A Genuine 24 Karat Coast Guard Hero



BMCM D.R. Horsley, the active duty Coast Guardsman with more years of service than anyone.

Photos by LT J.G. Louis Farrell

He's got more time in chow lines than most of us have in the Coast Guard. He's wrung more salt water out of his socks than the average Coast Guardsman has sailed over, and he's got more decorations than a Christmas tree. His sea-duty time alone adds up to more than twenty-seven years. If anyone is Super Coastie, it's BMCM D. R. Horsley, the active duty Coast Guardsman with more continuous service than anyone in the world.

"Master Chief Horsley is built like a little bull. He's about five-four, gruff and grumpy, and he has a rapport with his crew that is incredible," explained ETCM Jeffrey Thomas, command enlisted advisor of the Second District. "If he was to tell his crew, 'Well boys, I've decided to sail this cutter over a dam today, and we'll probably all be killed.' they'd just shrug, say aye, aye, and get the ship underway."

Right now BMCM Horsley is the Petty Officer-in-Charge of ANFAC Dubuque, but in his 38+ year career he has done everything from fight in the Viet Nam War to protect the President of the United States when he sailed down the Mississippi River on the steamboat Delta Queen last summer.

When asked why he stayed in the Coast Guard so long, BMCM Horsley replied: "I like it."

His most unusual assignment, he recollects, was the Coast Guard Cutter Kukui, a LORAN station tender and a construction ship that was homeported in Hawaii and sailed the South Pacific, building LORAN stations from scratch.

"We did things that no other deck

force in the Coast Guard ever did, like run bull dozers and pour concrete. Of course there was a regular construction crew aboard the ship, but a lot of the work fell to the deck force."

His most exciting memory? "Well, I guess that all depends on what you call exciting. I always had my own ideas about that. I guess you could say a couple of the typhoons I was in were pretty thrilling. The Market Time operation in Viet Nam was downright exciting too. Sometimes too exciting. That was the first river fighting U.S. armed forces have been in since the Civil War. We went in close. There used to be leaves and bushes hanging all over the cutter after a patrol. We were eyeball to eyeball with the b-----ds we were shooting at. I don't think anybody ever gets used to the sound of enemy gunfire, especially the first few rounds. But after the first few shots you get so busy doing what you have to do you don't even think about it."

BMCM Horsley served in Viet Nam from October 1966 to January 1969. Among the many other decorations he received was a Bronze Star. The citation reads like the script to a John Wayne movie: over one hundred naval gunfire missions, under intensive enemy fire on eleven occasions, and personally accounted for five enemy personnel killed in action.

Phrases like that make you suspect that BMCM Horsley might just be a genuine Coast Guard Hero.



BMCM Horsley at the helm of the WYACONDA

 * BMCM D.R. Horsley has sailed on enough ships to make a decent sized navy *
 * for a third world country. His assignments have included: CGC SAGEBRUSH, *
 * CGC CACTUS, CGC ANDROSCOGGIN, CGC MACKINAC, CGC HALFMOON, *
 * CGC PLANETREE, CGC KUKUI, CGC NETTLE, CGC CHAUTAQUA, CGC *
 * BUTTONWOOD, CGC IRONWOOD, CGC KLAMATH, CGC PT WHITE, CGC *
 * PT. GRACE, CGC PT JEFFERSON, CGC PT PARTRIDGE, CGC PT GREY, *
 * CGC MALLOW, CGC BASSWOOD, etc., etc. *

Survival Demonstration

LCDR D.S. SMITH, Chief, Boating Affairs Division for the 2nd Coast Guard District was in Louisville, Kentucky on 21 March 1980 to give a demonstration on hypothermia and cold water survival.

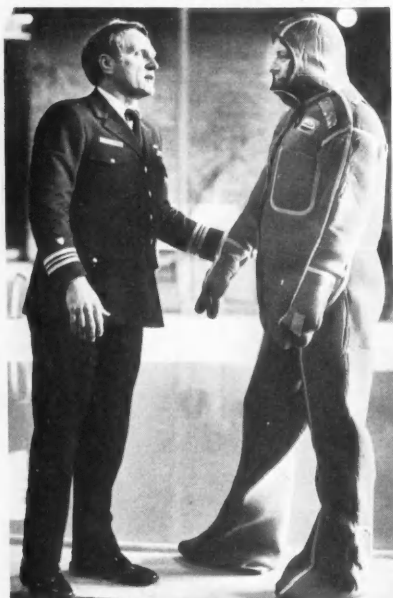
The demonstration was attended by over 100 representatives of the local marine industry, police and fire departments and the Corps of Engineers. LCDR SMITH and BMC CLAUDE HARMON presented information relative to the use of PFD's and demonstrated various PFD's and survival gear. The local news media recorded the event.

RC1 R.G. HAROLD and MK3 B.D. FENTRESS conducted a poolside demonstration of different types of survival gear for the local news media.

The highlight of the demonstration was when CDR LELAND GREGG (Commanding Officer of MSO Louisville), entered the pool in a survival suit with his Service Dress Blues on and stayed dry.

Photo credits to Ms. Melissa Farlow of the Courier-Journal, Louisville Times.

Story by: -DC1 R.G. HAROLD, USCG-



LCDR Smith gives CDR Gregg (CO of MSO Louisville) instructions before he entered the pool in exposure suit. CDR Gregg was in full dress blues under the suit and did not get wet.

Photo by Melissa Farlow courtesy of the Courier-Journal, Louisville Times.



DC1 Rich Harold of MSO Louisville with foul weather suit and heavy boots on demonstrates it's easy to float.

Photo by Melissa Farlow courtesy of the Courier-Journal, Louisville Times.

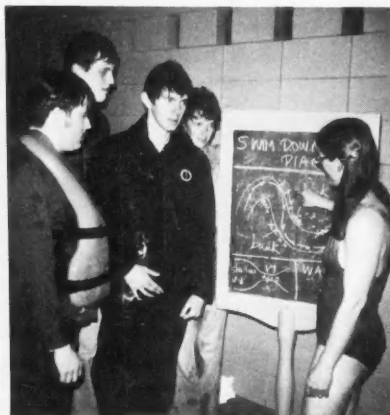
Downproofing For Safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Minneapolis/St. Paul continues to emphasize personnel safety. Downproofing is a yearly event conducted at the St. Paul YWCA. Prior to the "hands-on" training at the pool, MSO personnel review basic techniques of survival swimming with the aid of an American

Red Cross film. Poolside training provides the opportunity to try out new personnel safety equipment and to develop skills and confidence for potential crisis situations.

Story by LTJG S. E. Walsh

Photographs by LCDR S. E. Hungness



(Left to Right) Petty Officers P.A. Pineault, D.R. Cotch, J.P. Thompson, and LTJG S.E. Walsh at a learning station with YWCA instructor reviewing the effects of river currents.



Port Ops Department personnel with new gear. (Front) BM1 R.W. Peifer wearing cold weather coveralls with built-in flotation, MK1 J.M. DeFrancesco (left) wearing a cold weather flotation coat with orange and reflective hood. CWO2 R.E. Peterson (right) wearing an alternative style of work vest.

Season Starts for Second District Nine

It was an unhappy beginning for the sluggers of the Second District, dropping an afternoon heartbreaker 10-13, then losing under the lights 14-30. But the team is undaunted by their slow start, and the score doesn't really reflect either the team's heads-up, skillful play or their determination to end the year with a trophy in their mitts.

The team, sponsored by a local watering hold, Kellie O'Toole's this year, is composed almost entirely of Coast Guardsmen, including:

YN1 Dale "Mad Pole" Broskey	2nd Base, 3rd Base, Catcher
YN1 Bob "Your Name" Woolsey	1st Base
SKCS John "On the Road" Weber	1st Base
BM3 Steve "Bull Dog" Adams (CGC Cheyene)	2nd Base, Third Base
SK2 Frank "Octane" Wright	2nd Base
ET3 Kevin "Machine" Finley (Base St. Louis)	Shortstop, Second
YN2 Bill "Dusty" Rhoades (RO St. Louis)	3rd Base, Shortstop
SN Charles "I Got It" Hershy	2nd Base, Catcher
YN1 Dennis "Strike Out" Laughlin	Pitcher, 1st Base
RM1 Mark "Arch" Raybould	Relief Pitcher
YN2 Roger "Speedster" Boswell	Catcher
SK2 Russell "Pee Wee" Parker	Outfield
YN3 Paul "Simple" Simon	Outfield
LTJG Robert "Homer" Palumbo	Outfield, Third Base
HM2 Brad "Bruiser" Rees	Outfield

But win or lose, a Second District baseball game is a guaranteed good time, whether you're playing or watching. Games are played in Lions' Park, behind the Budweiser Brewery.



ET3 Kevin Finley lobbs the ball home.



Tools of the trade.



Broskey at the Bat: YN1 Dale Broskey, a seemingly permanent institution of Second District softball, prepares to bash one over the fence.



A runner rounds second as Coast Guardsmen prepare to finish him off at third.



SK2 Russell "Pee Wee" Parker rounds third base enroute home.



YN1 Bob Woolsey stretches to get a runner at first.



Keri Lee, YN1 Dennis Laughlin's daughter, came prepared to throw out the first ball of the season.

WARNING! Tornado Season Approaches

We've had snow, sleet, hail and rain. Now, with spring in full bloom we can look forward to another Mid-western weather surprise: the tornado.

Everyone has seen pictures or read about these destructive storms, but there is something new about tornado detection that is described in newspapers and magazines around the country: using your television as an early warning system.

It works something like this: turn on

your television. Turn the channel selector to 13 and using the brightness control knob, darken the screen until it's nearly black. Now switch the channel selector to channel two. Lightening will appear on the screen as horizontal flashes or streaks. If the screen becomes bright, or the darkened picture becomes visible and remains continuously visible, chances are a tornado is within 20 miles or less. At this point, it's time to unplug your TV and head for the basement.

2nd District Runner up on Waesche Award

Last year the 2nd District Reserve units won the coveted Waesche Award for excellence in the total reserve program. This year the part-time Coast Guardsmen were strong contenders, coming in second in the competition. But number two tries harder. Here are just two examples of how the reserve in the 2nd District helps get the job done:

Keeping Boaters Safe

Congratulations and a hearty "well done" are in order for personnel of the Boating Safety (BOSAF) Division of the Nashville, Tennessee Reserve Unit, commanded by Commander Richard Crawford. During the 1979 boating season BOSAF personnel patrolled two major lakes in the Nashville area, Old Hickory and Percy Priest, and, despite being plagued by mechanical problems, compiled an impressive record to lead the Second Coast District, both Regular and Reserve, in all categories of statistics. During the season Nashville BOSAF personnel conducted 453

boardings, most of which were small pleasure boats. Of these, 245 were found to be in violation.

The nearest Reserve unit in statistics only conducted 225 boardings. Even among the Regular BOSAF units, the leading team's total was 438 boardings, with 210 in violation.

More important, however, is the fact that, despite extremely heavy boating activity on these two lakes, one of which was described by a seasoned boating safety inspector from Second District Headquarters as "a zoo", Nashville BOSAF personnel were instrumental in keeping boating mishaps and injuries to a minimum.

The unit, led by PSC W.C. Thompson, was made up of PS2 (now Ensign) R.L. Davis, MK1 W.H. Brown, ET1 J.P. Glines, PS1 H.M. Skipworth, ET1 G.D. Kyle, BM2 A.W. Petty, DC2 J.B. Clark, MK3 R.H. Burr, MK3 R.H. Tyner, and DC3 D.W. Haynes.

Story by ENS R.L. Davis

A "Triumph" for the Reserve

Story by Lt. Tom Behringer

Since its inception in 1973, the Louisville Vessel Traffic System has assisted over seven thousand towing vessels through the treacherous reach of water on the Ohio River just above McAlpine Dam.

The efficient operation of this system is in no small part due to the excellent rapport of MSO Louisville personnel and members of Coast Guard Reserve Unit Louisville. Reservists on Special Active Duty For Training (SPACDUTRA) have logged over 11,000 manhours in the VTS for over 50% of the total operating time. MSO personnel stand the watch "out of hide" during normal office hours and are relieved at the end of the working day. The year 1979, was a significant year in the operation of the VTS. Record rainfall resulted in 1890 hours of VTS operation, which exceeds any previous year. Reservists logged 60% of these hours.

The decision to use reservists at VTS watchstanders was made in 1973 in lieu of increasing the number of regulars at MSO Louisville. This decision has resulted in remarkable savings to the government and highly skilled reservists and should serve as a model for the efficient use of the Coast Guard Reserve.



Boating safety reservists inspect a pleasure boat on a Tennessee lake.

(Editor's note: Because of RADM Venzke's involvement in the board of inquiry that is investigating the sinking of the CGC BLACKTHORN outside Tampa Bay, Florida, there will not be a District Commander's Corner in this issue. River Currents will continue this feature in future issues.)

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